

1733



Attorney's Docket No. 43693/238289

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

#7/11/03
7/11/03

Inventor: Gorich, et al.
Appl No.: 09/938,222
Filed: 08/23/2001
For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING
PANELS FROM WOOD PIECES

Confirmation No.: 1697
Group Art Unit: 1733
Examiner: John T. Haran

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED
JUL 09 2003
GROUP 1700

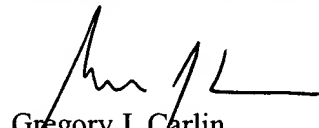
RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

This is in response to the Office Action dated June 5, 2003, in which the Examiner has required restriction between Group I, namely Claims 1-18, Group II, namely Claims 19-23, Group III, namely Claims 24-26, and Group IV, namely Claims 27-35. Applicant hereby provisionally elects with traverse to prosecute the claims of Group I (Claims 1-18) and expressly reserves the right to file divisional applications or take such other appropriate measures deemed necessary to protect the inventions in the remaining claims.

Should the Examiner have further questions or comments with respect to examination of this case, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned so that further examination of this application can be expedited.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those, which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

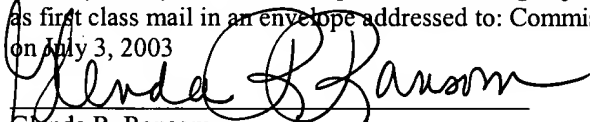

Gregory J. Carlin
Registration No. 45,607

Customer No. 00826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111

In re: Gorich, et al.
Appl No.: 09/938,222
Filed: 08/23/2001
Page 2

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 3, 2003


Glenda R. Ransom

CLT01/4599450v1